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Letter dated 30 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the violation of airspace and the bombing of the territory of Georgia (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-50308 (E) 010802

Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its utmost concern regarding the recent developments in the territories neighbouring the State border between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

On 29 July 2002, at approximately 3 a.m., from the territory of the Russian Federation, a helicopter illegally entered Georgian airspace and bombed summer pastures in the northern part of the village Girevi, Akhmeta District.

On the following day, 30 July 2002, at 3.30 a.m., two unidentified aircrafts, again entering from the territory of the Russian Federation, violated the Georgian airspace and conducted air strikes in the northern part of the Pankisi Gorge, near Mount Nakerala. Human losses and damages are being assessed.

The Georgian side considers that such illegal acts continue owing to non-investigation and inadequate assessment of similar actions in the recent past, despite the agreement reached at the highest political level between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

Reoccurrence of such provocations exercised by the Russian Military Forces on the territory of the sovereign State of Georgia, can only be qualified as an aggressive act against the neighbouring State.

The Georgian side draws the attention of the international community to the fact that these aggressive acts are being carried out against the backdrop of an anti-Georgian propaganda campaign launched in the Russian mass media and groundless allegations towards Georgia on behalf of certain Russian officials.

It is particularly distressing that these blatant and grave provocations are directed in contravention of the recent positive shifts in relations between the two countries, achieved due to the efforts of the Presidents of Georgia and the Russian Federation.

There are grounds to conclude that it is the aim of certain actors in the political leadership of the Russian Federation to further increase tensions by undermining positive achievements in the relations between the two countries.

The Georgian side categorically demands the immediate suspension of such provocations and their urgent joint investigation for the appropriate political evaluation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia considers that the international community must give a due assessment to the violation of the airspace of Georgia and the bombing of its territories, as they constitute blatant infringement of the internationally accepted basic principles of peaceful coexistence of neighbouring countries.